

REMARKS

In the June 16, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner:

1. Objected to the specification because of informalities on pages 11, 12, 14, 22, 24, 25, and 26.
2. Objected to the drawings in Figures 14-16 for lacking references described in the specification.
3. Rejected claims 2 and 6 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Spielberger (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,352).
4. Rejected Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Spielberger in view of Battacharyya (U.S. Patent No. 6,724,027).

Applicants have amended the specification at the pages cited by the Examiner to obviate the Examiner's objections to the specification. With respect to the objections to the drawings and the rejections to the claims, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification does not refer to a reference to "A-A" as being in any of Figures 14-16. The specification describes "A-A" as being in Figure 1B on page 18. In addition, Applicants have amended the first sentence in the paragraph starting on line 16 of page 18 to clarify that element 30 is not in any of Figures 14-16. Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the drawings are moot. No correction to the drawings is therefore necessary.

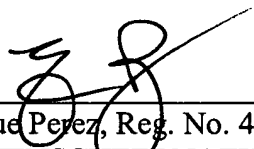
Applicants also respectfully submit that has also failed to make a prima facie case of anticipation in rejecting claims 2 and 6; and of obviousness in rejecting claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner misunderstood the placement of the magnetic element relative to the magnetic shield layer as recited in the claims. In rejecting claim 1 as obvious, the Examiner stated that "Spielberger discloses a magnetic memory device comprising...wherein said memory element is characterized by being disposed avoiding an edge portion (figs. 4 or 5, edge portions around chip 10 not covered by 64 and 68) and a center portion of said magnetic shield layer (fig. 5, magnetic shield layers 64 and 68 avoiding the center area)." June 16 Office Action, pg. 4. The Examiner misreads the claims. It is the "magnetic element"

that avoids “end portions” and “center portions” of the magnetic shield layer. Therefore, Spielberger does not disclose the relationship between the magnetic element and magnetic shield layers recited in claims 1 and 2. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to further clarify this relationship.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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